

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 /089 W

-----066851 271543Z /66

R 270740Z APR 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2897
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0255

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
SUBJ: DISRUPTION IN KWAZULU SCHOOLS

DURBAN 084

1. IN THE WORST OF A SERIES OF RECENT DISRUPTIONS IN KWAZULU HIGH SCHOOLS, SOME 200 ZULU STUDENTS OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S HIGH SCHOOL (NEAR DUNDEE) KILLED ONE TEACHER, SERIOUSLY INJURED ANOTHER, AND CAUSED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY DURING A RIOT APRIL 23. THE DISTURBANCE REPORTEDLY WAS CAUSED BY GRIEVANCES OVER DISCIPLINE AND SEPARATION OF MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS. RIOT, WHICH BEGAN WHEN TWENTY MALE PUPILS ATTACKED THEIR PREFECTS, ESCALATED WHEN OTHER (ALLEGEDLY INTIMIDATED) JOINED THEM IN STONING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND MARCHING ON TEACHERS' RESIDENCES. DURING THE RESULTANT ATTACK SEVERAL HOUSES WERE STONED AND TEACHERS ASSAULTED. RIOT POLICE FROM DUNDEE AND NQUTU ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS TO ARREST MOST OF THE RIOTING STUDENTS. THE KWAZULU GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED APRIL 25 THAT IT WAS SENDING THREE REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTI-
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GATE THE MATTER, WHICH CHIEF BUTHELEZI CHARACTERIZED AS "A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY". LATER THAT DAY EDUCATION MINISTER DHLOMO ANNOUNCED THE SCHOOL WAS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

2. ST. AUGUSTINE'S INCIDENT WAS THE MOST SERIOUS OF A SERIES OF PROBLEMS BETWEEN ZULU STUDENTS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS NOTED DURING PAST FEW WEEKS. AT ZULULAND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

STAGED A RALLY AND BOYCOTTED LECTURES APRIL 25 IN PROTEST OVER A UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DECISION TO ENFORCE A UNIVERSITY REGULATION EXPELLING SOME PREGNANT STUDENTS. AFTER AN APPARENTLY FRUITLESS MEETING WITH THE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC), THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST BLACK RECTOR, PROFESSOR A.C. NKABINDE, ORDERED THE STUDENTS BACK TO CLASS AND LATER NOTIFIED THEM THAT ANYONE NOT ATTENDING LECTURES APRIL 26 WOULD HAVE HIS REGISTRATION CANCELLED AND HAVE TO LEAVE CAMPUS PERMANENTLY. ACCORDING TO DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS S.M. BENGU, MOST STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSES ON THE 26TH, NO VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE DURING THE INCIDENTS AND POLICE WERE NOT CALLED TO THE CAMPUS.

3. IN OTHER INCIDENTS, CHIEF BUTHELEZI'S 16 YEAR OLD SON NELISUZULU AND 41 OTHER STUDENTS WERE EXPELLED FROM THE ELITE KWADLANGEZWA HIGH SCHOOL (NEAR EMPANGENI) EARLY IN APRIL AFTER THEY ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED TO CUT OFF THE SCHOOL'S POWER SYSTEM, STONED A TEACHER'S CAR, AND BURNED SOME OFFICIAL FILES. THE POLICE DID NOT CHARGE STUDENTS AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR PARENTS AND KWAZULU GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ON APRIL 24 THE PRINCIPAL OF NTHEMBENI HIGH SCHOOL (NEAR MELMOTH) TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS LETTER FROM SOWETO DEMANDING THE EXPLUSION OF ALL PUPILS FROM THAT TOWNSHIP. IN RESPONSE FIFTEEN BOYS ASKED FOR AN IMMEDIATE TRANSFER AND TWENTY-TWO GIRLS LEFT THE SCHOOL. EARLIER IN THE MONTH THE MLOKOTHWA HIGH SCHOOL (NEAR THE ZULU ROYAL CAPITAL OF NONGOMA) CLOSED

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INDEFINITELY AFTER ANOTHER PUPIL-ADMINISTRATION DISAGREEMENT OVER DISCIPLINE, WHICH EVEN THE INTERVENTION OF ZULU KING GOODWILL COULD NOT RESOLVE.

FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCHOOLS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00255
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0523
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780411/aaaaaisw.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e741bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2832648
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISRUPTION IN KWAZULU SCHOOLS DURBAN 084
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e741bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014